

The Time Is Now

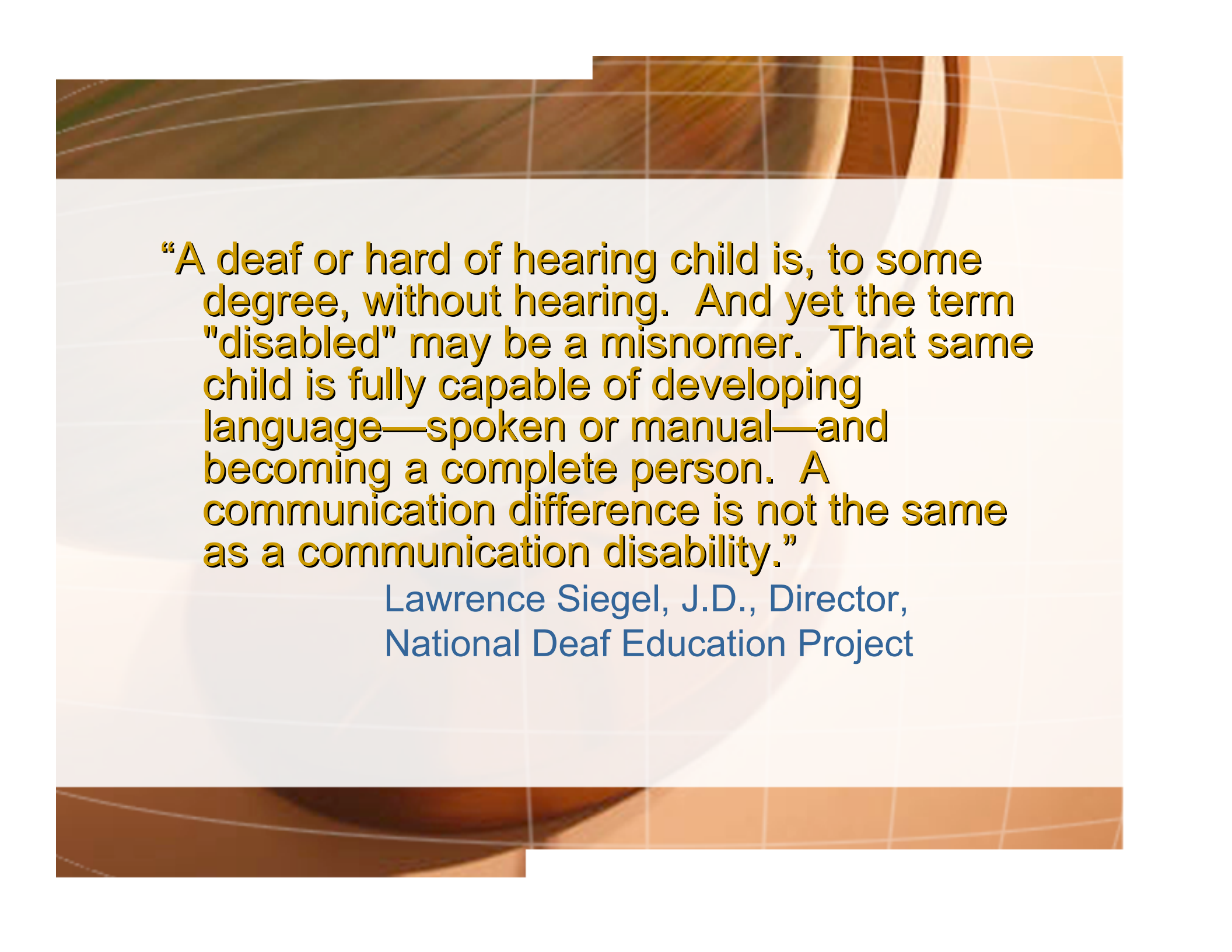
Leeanne Seaver, M.A.
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Time for what....?

- Better academic outcomes
- Authentic, meaningful social life
- Full & effective communication access
- Opportunity to realize his/her fullest potential

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“A deaf or hard of hearing child is, to some degree, without hearing. And yet the term “disabled” may be a misnomer. That same child is fully capable of developing language—spoken or manual—and becoming a complete person. A communication difference is not the same as a communication disability.”

Lawrence Siegel, J.D., Director,
National Deaf Education Project

Old Paradigm v Today's Realities

- Average age of identification: 2-4 yrs
 - Primitive assistance communication technologies
 - Sign language viewed as inferior
 - Limited educational options
- Universal newborn hearing screening & identification
 - High-powered, programmable hearing aids, cochlear implants
 - ASL legitimate foreign language
 - Accessibility expanded via interpreters & assistive technologies

Time for a Different Future...



Time to Expect Full and Effective Access



Barriers to Solutions

1. Disagreement on the problems & how to solve them
2. Research void
3. Resistance to change
4. Lack of administrative support
5. Missing stakeholders

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What are we gonna do about it?

#1. Lack of Consensus

- . rooted in bias
- . historically implacable

= accept diversity &
keep our eyes on
the prize



What are we gonna do about #2 “Research Void”?

- . Meta-Analysis proves our lack of reliable, evidenced-based resources (Luckner, 2004)
- . “Deaf kids are not hearing kids who can’t hear.” (Marschark, 2005)
- . JDSDE Author’s Corner connects parents & professionals directly to the researcher at www.wiki.educ.msu.edu

= *Let’s admit to what we don’t know and commit to credibly finding out!*

What are we gonna do about #3 “Resistance to Change”?

- . systemic inertia rooted in job security & administrative agendas
- . professional & biological imperative to *survive* (i.e., sustain our comfort zone)

= lower the drawbridge...

let in the change agents

(parents, deaf community, advocates within the system)

What are we gonna do about #4 “Lack of Administrative Support”?

- The classic “low-incidence” dismissal
- Realities of under-funding, lack of qualified (or any) human resources, and mandates that work counter to our purposes

***= Strengthen our lobby by unifying for
new mandates in a climate of
collaboration & respect***

What are we gonna do about #5 “Missing Stakeholders”?

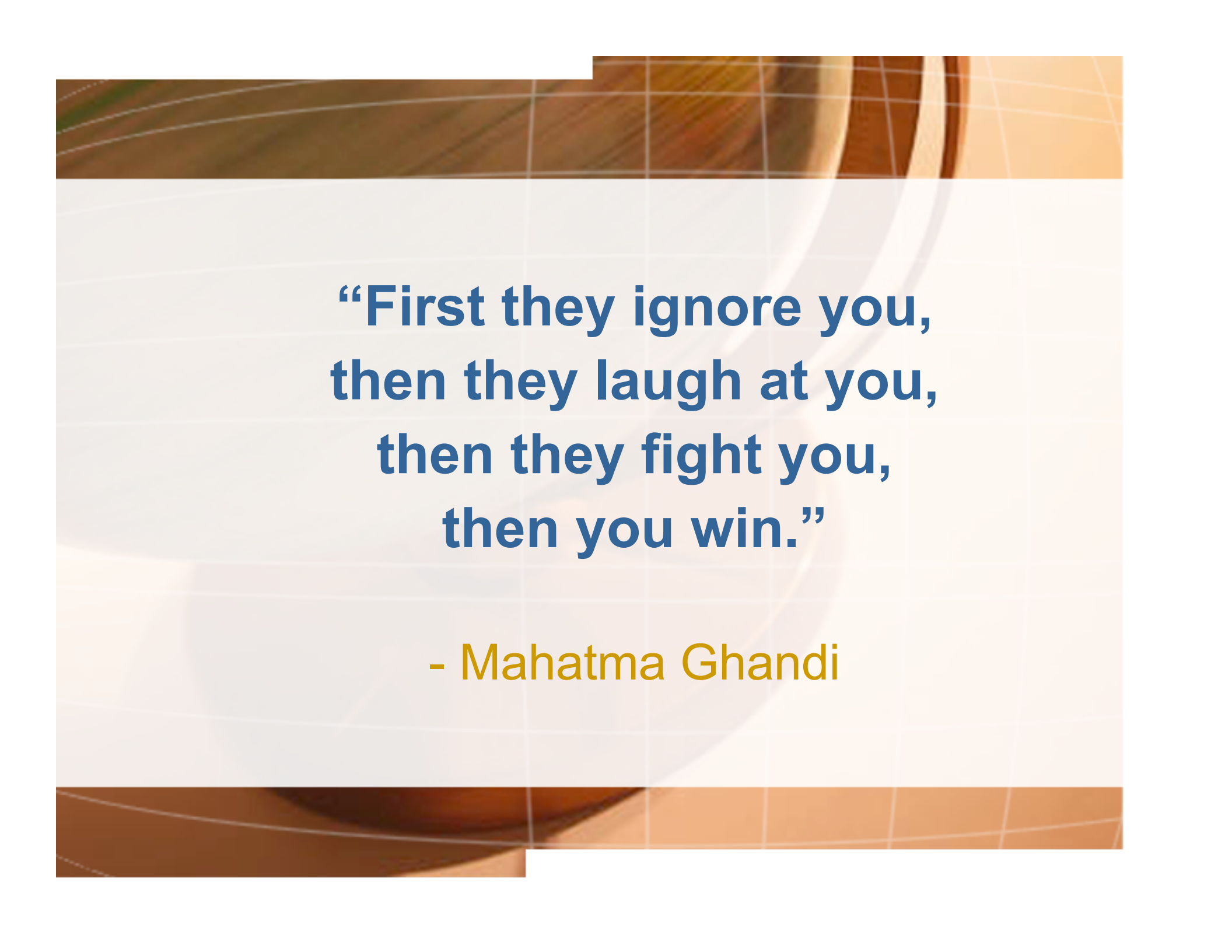
- . The “Dennis Rodman” Syndrome
- . The “system” is often contra-indicated for collaboration of all vested parties

= “Influence is the union of power and purpose.” -- Condoleezza Rice

Signs of Progress!



- Our “issues” articulated (www.ndepwnow.org)
- **The National Agenda**
- **National Deaf Education Summit Conference** helps establish the “*Wisconsin Agenda*”
- “**Deaf Child’s Bill of Rights**” legislation passing at the state level
- **Hands & Voices** creates a mechanism for local & nationally unified message



**“First they ignore you,
then they laugh at you,
then they fight you,
then you win.”**

- Mahatma Ghandi

The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a series of concentric, overlapping circles or arcs in shades of brown and tan, creating a sense of depth and movement. Overlaid on this is a light-colored grid of thin lines, which adds a geometric and technical feel to the design. The overall color palette is warm and earthy.

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is now**

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